The next issue of CHALLENGE will appear in three weeks, after which we will resume our regular biweekly schedule.

PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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JOHNS HOPKINS

POLICE TERROR IS ESSENTIAL TO CAPITALISM



From Johns Hopkins campus to City Hall fight to smash racist police terror

Baltimore, Maryland, November 30—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined about 40 students, faculty and community supporters to protest Johns Hopkins University's plan for a $10 million private, armed police force. The day's activities included a two-hour march through the Homewood campus of Johns Hopkins University (JHU), an evening vigil, and then a West Wednesday rally outside City Hall. During the campus march, a PLP member distributed 20 flyers and copies of CHALLENGE, and engaged in conversations about socialism, communism and the history of racist police murder in Baltimore. Racism is a pillar of capitalist society and that includes universities. Over policing and murder by kkkops are glaring examples of racist attacks on all workers and students, Black and white. The whole capitalist system has to go.

That night's West Wednesday rally condemned the recent police killing of Tyree Moorehead, the main creator of Baltimore's "no shoot zones." Some maintain that Mr. Moorehead was threatening a woman's life with a knife, but the police shot him 14 times, continuing to shoot even after Mr. Moorehead, lying on the street, had rolled a distance away from the woman. This is yet another case of the police acting as judge, jury and executioner.

School kkkops enforce campus fascism

At the evening vigil, a member of PLP explained that armed campus police forces, starting at private universities in the 60s, were not created to protect the safety of students or neighboring community members, which Hopkins officials claim to be their goal. No, explained the speaker, the real reason was to enable universities to suppress powerful on-campus protests supporting civil rights, and opposing the imperialist war in Vietnam.

When Hopkins started their propaganda campaign, seeking to win Maryland State approval for an armed campus police force, Hopkins Students Against Private Police researched University statistics. Hopkins already had about 1,000 unarmed security guards. It turns out, for the year researched by the students, regarding "suspects" detained by campus security, 97 percent were Black, even

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OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Haiti
Imperialist-created hellhole or hotbed of fightback

The call by the U.S. President Joe Biden and the United Nations for a multinational invasion of Haiti is motivated in part by their racist dread of yet another refugee crisis. If you ever needed an example of how capitalism is hell on earth, look at what the bosses have done to our class in Haiti. Yet even as capitalist institutions failed at every turn, workers organized a general strike. The masses, led by Progressive Labor Party, (see page 4), will lead the way out of this hellhole.

Working-class lives are expendable for all bosses. For the working class, trading in local gangs for the biggest gangster of them all—U.S. imperialism—is a losing strategy. There is just one choice that can fundamentally change conditions for our class and rid the world of profit and exploitation. The only solution is a communist revolution to smash capitalism and build a new society on the bedrock of need and commitment.

Capitalism in the raw

In July 2021, the assassination of Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse, a U.S.-backed stooge, ignited a wave of unrest and terror from organized gangs that now control 60 percent of the country (Foreign Affairs, 12/1/22). The resulting chaos has led to deadly waves of hunger, rape, and extortion, and the lethal return of cholera, an absolutely preventable disease that is spread by contaminated water.

The unelected U.S.-backed prime minister, Ariel Henry, has asked for international military forces to intervene in Haiti to bring "order" to a society in upheaval. Henry had recently cut fuel subsidies and doubled the price of gasoline, which is now in short supply. Haiti's ruling class has discarded the mask of liberal democracy and is calling on U.S. imperialism to install fascist discipline and protect the local bosses' riches—and their despicable lives.

Local bosses back gangs

When the state lacks legitimacy, organized crime becomes a dominant political force. Gangs are essentially capitalists without state power or the "rule of law" that regulates the bosses' vicious competition. Haiti's power vacuum is being filled by former cop Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier's gang "G9 Family and Allies," which controls access to the essential Varreux fuel terminal. For a country that runs on diesel generators, a blockade of the main fuel port means that schools and hospitals cannot function (The Daily Podcast, 12/8/22).

The G9 Alliance uses murder and sexist violence against women workers as systemic tools of terror (New York Post, 10/15/22). The gang is demanding amnesty, cabinet seats, and Henry's resignation. They are "financed by Haiti's tiny clique of import-export oligarchs" (Foreign Policy, 10/31/22), which is nothing new. Working hand in hand with French and U.S. imperialists, these local bosses have played a critical role in Haiti's impoverishment over the past two centuries. What may appear to be anarchy among rival gangs is in reality an internal fight among bosses against a backdrop of a divided and weakening U.S. ruling class.

U.S. impotence

Since the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the U.S. has treated the Caribbean and Latin America as its "backyard." But with the relative decline of U.S. imperialism, China's capitalist bosses have made inroads in the region, investing over $10 billion in Caribbean countries since 2005.

The U.S. bosses' weakness is exposed by their inability to respond by rallying its allies and its own military leaders into putting boots on the ground in Haiti. "The U.S. doesn't want its own troops included" in the multinational force (New York Times, 11/29/22). It hasn't been able to persuade Mexico, Brazil, Canada, or France to lead the assault. At this point, U.S. imperialists are uncertain if they can pull off an Afghanistan-style invasion.

One sure thing to come is an exodus of more refugees from Haiti to the U.S., where the state-sanctioned thugs of the U.S. Border Patrol will greet them with more racist terror, just as they did in June. Biden expanded temporary protected status for 110,000 workers from Haiti to stay for 18 months—a drop in the bucket for people who have lost everything to the instability and callousness of the profit system. It's up to our class to welcome and organize refugees of capitalism.

Imperialists, the biggest thugs

"I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers…I was a racketeer; a gangster for capitalism."

— U.S. Maj. General Smedley Butler

The current crisis in Haiti is the consequence of more than 200 years of gangsterism by the U.S. and other capitalist powers.

- 1915-1934: Following the assassination of President Jean Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, the U.S. invaded and seized control over Haitian finances in the name of "stability" for U.S. interests (Foreign Affairs, 12/1/22). Then it violently suppressed uprisings against the U.S. occupation.
- 1994: After decades of U.S. money, weapons, and troops to support the brutal, anti-communist Duvalier gang—which massacred as many as 60,000 people —President Bill Clinton sent 20,000 troops to Haiti under "Operation Uphold Democracy."
- 2004:Partnering with France, Canada, and Chile, the U.S. invaded Haiti to escort President Jean-Bertrand Aristide out after the CIA orchestrated a coup to oust him (Guardian, 3/13/22). The troops remained until they were replaced by the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which became infamous for mass rape (Al Jazeera, 10/6/22). This 13-year occupation also brought a siege of cholera that killed 10,000 people and sickened more than 850,000 (AP News, 10/18/22).

THIS is what the capitalist bosses mean by "order" and "stability." The working class in Haiti has fought back at every step. They fought enslavers, imperialists, super-exploitative industry bosses, the cholera-spreading MINUSTAH, and the Tonton Macoute death squads. Haiti is a harbinger of the rulers' decay, an example of what's to come as the worldwide crisis of capitalism deepens and intensifies. There are no certainties in this world, except one: Our class will continue to fight.

Humanitarianism = imperialism

Beginning in 1791, enslaved Black workers in Haiti led the first successful revolution to abolish slavery, striking fear in the hearts of rulers around the world. Imperialists have been bleeding workers in Haiti ever since. Imperialist extortion of Haiti by the U.S. and France explains why Haiti suffers the worst poverty and inequality in the Western Hemisphere.

History shows us there is no such thing as "humanitarian intervention" in an imperialist system. The U.S., its allies, and the UN have been invading Haiti for more than 200 years, causing ever greater super-exploitation, impoverishment, and instability for workers (see box). The working class in Haiti is rightly feared by the bosses. The politicians and the gang leaders know that once they're forced to remove their boots from the neck of the working class, their days will be numbered.

Workers have no borders

Progressive Labor Party must fight to turn this hellhole into a hotbed of revolutionary communist fightback To eliminate gangsters on the street and in the halls of government, we need communism.

Organize across borders! An attack on one is an attack on all. We must build international working-class solidarity through our mass organizations. Borders were created by the capitalists to define which workers were theirs to exploit. Working people have no nation!✪

Justice for Raymond: Smash the bosses' kkkops & kkkourts

BRONX, NY, December 12– Before court officers brought kkkop/Corrections Officer and murderer Dion Middleton into court on Nov. 16, they wanted a word with the block of 18 supporters that packed the small Bronx courtroom. Looming over our group and looking directly at the mother of Raymond Chaluisant (the victim of Middleton's racist rampage), they said they didn't want any trouble. No one could make any moves toward Middleton, or make any noise while he was escorted in or during his appearance in front of the judge.

No one could express any emotion, they said, "no matter how you feel." You could feel the threat of violence in their words. But there was also great fear. Because the bosses and their minions know something we must keep reminding ourselves: the working class is mighty, and if we rise up, we can overthrow them and their racist profit system!

After this stern lecture, the racist murderer was escorted into the courtroom (and later, back out again) flanked by armed bodyguards, in a display that showed both the power and panic of the state (the government).

This was but one of the lessons we have learned during our campaign as we fight this case and support the family of Raymond Chaluisant. This 18-year-old was gunned down in the street this past July in a hit-and-run by off-duty kkkop Middleton for allegedly playing with a toy water gun.

We communists know that, if we fight to build our movement, the days of racist police terror are numbered and can one day be extinguished forever. Even our relatively small group that day had the power to disrupt court and to broadcast the contempt that millions of workers have for the bosses' criminal injustice system.

We were appearing in court alongside Raymond's family to make a clear statement that the working class is watching these proceedings. Middleton, who is a Black corrections officer, is one of the few kkkops to be charged after murdering a Black or Latin youth or worker. But we aren't kidding ourselves: even if he is convicted, which—even for such an egregious (extreme) criminal act as a hit-and-run, is not guaranteed—it will do nothing to change the nature of the police or corrections officers, whose job it is to "enforce" the racist capitalists' anti-worker laws.

You can't reform the police!

As communists, we have come to understand that we can never reform the police to somehow serve the working class. Our study of the history of capitalism and the police (including in these pages of CHALLENGE) exposes how slaveowning plantation owners in the Antebellum South formed the original police patrols to capture escaped slaves, and how factory bosses in the industrial age of the



late 1800s and early 1900s expanded the cop's role to break strikes, and, always, to quell (put down) rebellions. From post Civil War times and continuing to this day, cops were intimately involved in building and protecting the Ku Klux Klan (often occupying leadership positions)—which is why we use the nickname kkkops! Many of those right-wing fascists who stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021—not to make revolution but to stage a fascist coup—were members or former members of law enforcement.

We continue to study history to learn the invaluable lessons from every struggle we involve ourselves in so we can improve our work to build our revolutionary movement to liberate the working class. We may be students or home health aides or transit workers or teachers, but we can all become professional revolutionaries and communist organizers.

The bosses are terrified of the power of the working class

We see over and over again, from the bosses' fascist response to the freight railroad workers (see editorial, p. 2), or to anti-racist students at Kingsborough Community College (see CHALLENGE, 11/30 and 12/14), the bosses use their laws and stormtrooper kkkops to attempt to control the working class. They do this because they know they are outnumbered. They know their sick exploitative profit system is diametrically opposed to the needs of the working class. But they don't care!

So they train their kkkops, their politicians, even their teachers and social workers, to fall in line and enforce their rules and laws that serve their interests.

We need to learn from this essential fact! Like the Kingsborough students have shown, when the working class unites in militant, multi-racial action, we are unbeatable!

Our campaign to support Raymond Chaluisant's family has been modest, but we should not underestimate its importance. We have had multiple Saturday demonstrations and marches in the neighborhood where he lived. We have spread the word, passing out leaflets, taking turns speaking on the bullhorn, and distributing hundreds of copies of CHALLENGE. We have also been reaching out to the family, offering practical support and sharing our vision for a different world.

Our work is important enough that the court is afraid of us; there's our proof!

Smashing racist police terror: a lifelong struggle

Some of us in our group have a lifetime of struggle going back decades. We have seen over and over the same MO (pattern): kkkops murder and the bosses explain it away. Once in a while, as if to throw a dog a bone, the rulers do discipline one of the kkkillers (and then, often an Asian cop, or a Black cop like Middleton, easier to scapegoat), and make a cosmetic change or two. But as we saw in the wake of the Breonna Taylor and George Floyd protests, these "reforms" are often reversed (by the liberal Big Fascists (see page 6), it should be noted) in the very next breath. And their racist terrorizing and murder of the working class? They don't stop!

Even if they convict Middleton and send him to prison, they can never bring Raymond back, and they cannot stop their terrorizing of the working class, because the bosses NEED the kkkops to terrorize us. When they say "protect and serve," they mean serve their racist profit system!

But good luck trying to pacify us: we know better! In our experience, many families of slain youth and workers have become active in the struggle for a better world; some have joined Progressive Labor Party. We must acknowledge the profound trauma and cost of losing a loved one in such a shocking and vicious manner. As we continue trying to support Raymond's family in every way we can, we have become more resolute as a collective to marshal our forces and continue the struggle for a communist world.

When Middleton has his next court appearance on Wednesday, Dec. 21, we will be there, and we plan to continue organizing in the neighborhood. As our international communist movement continues to grow, we will increasingly give the bosses of the world and their cronies something to REALLY be afraid of: communist revolution!✪

Johns Hopkins

Students continue fight vs private armed kkkops

Continued from page 1

though the student body includes only a small percentage of Black students. Hopkins has orchestrated this racial profiling, and now wants to put guns into the mix. Two students explained that, while the university claims to uphold "democracy," it has consistently refused to listen to the majority of students, faculty and community who oppose an armed campus force.

History of students' antiracist fightback

The struggle at Hopkins is not new. In 2018, militant rallies, a month-long take-over of the administration building, community petitions with thousands of names, and community groups - including West Wednesday – all strongly opposed the establishment of an armed force. Nevertheless, in 2019 Hopkins succeeded in getting the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation allowing the university, medical complex, and Peabody Institute to move forward with a private, armed police force.

However, after the horrific death of George Floyd and the millions of people who stood strong against that racist police murder, Hopkins announced it would delay implementation of the armed force for two years. Now the time is up, and JHU – figuring the sit-in students and their supporters have largely graduated and gone – is moving forward again.

Still, anti-racist protestors disrupted hearings about this issue in September. Ongoing rallies, by students and community members, have demonstrated deep feelings against violent policing and the danger it poses, especially to Black and Latin students, and to nearby community residents.

Today's rally and vigil started with a walkout at Gilman Hall. Speakers at checkpoints included a faculty member who recounted past attacks on student protests by the administration and campus security. Several students said they have been protesting for years against Hopkins' plans for an armed force.

Can't reform away police terror

Another parallel development is that the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) will soon be overseen by the Baltimore City government. Until now, for over a hundred years, it has been the State of Maryland that oversaw BPD. Some organizers see this as a reform that will lead to significant police accountability.

As communists, we understand that police brutality will continue under this system, no matter which level of government is in charge. This is because police terror is essential to capitalism, just as brutal slave catchers were essential to the institution of slavery. We will continue to fight against racist police murder, from Freddie Gray and Tyrone West, to the recent murder – by a security guard – of Kevin Torres in Baltimore. And we will continue to share our understanding of the need for multiracial unity, revolution, and the creation of a new egalitarian world with real sisterhood and brotherhood✪.

Fighting capitalist-made starvation, one kitchen at a time

HAITI— At a birthday celebration of a child a mother asked: "In these times of misery, how can anyone have the courage to set off fireworks." This mother knows how much fireworks cost. But it was a small opportunity to try to recapture some normality in this country where a vast number of workers and their children are starving. These "times of misery" are the direct result of the racist super-exploitation of capitalism. It is repeated millions of times worldwide. The "small opportunity" is a tiny glimpse of workers organizing together to help each other —that's our communist future.

Capitalism starves workers

Since the worsening of the socio-economic crisis here, capitalist inequalities are manifesting themselves in a more glaring and horrifying way each day (see editorial, page 2). The bosses use the benign term "food insecurity" to describe a situation that means nothing less than starvation, and today it is ravaging more than half of the workers of Haiti. Because of rampant inflation and gangs, armed and supported by the bourgeoisie to terrorize the masses, provisions scarcely reach the hungry, whether in the cities, the towns or the rural areas.

In one locality called Pòsenlwi (Port St-Louis), long forgotten by the government, some workers engage in markedly rudimentary fishing, which cannot feed their families. There are no other means to earn a living.

Workers organize collectively

The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) here does not remain indifferent to this situation. Through contributions from friends and comrades of PLP in the U.S., we organized a community kitchen in this locality. Along with workers and students of the district, we prepared large pots of food, one so big the people nicknamed it "The Family."



"It's an event!" exclaimed one of the three cooks: "Bagay yo pa bon pou moun yo ditou non… Sak pi di a, etan map fè sòs la, manje a poko menm fin kwit, preske tout moun gentan vini avèk veso yo pou yo ka pran manje." ("Things are not good for the people at all… The worst thing is, while I'm making the sauce, the food isn't even finished cooking, almost everyone has already come with their dishes to eat.")

A hot meal is considered a luxury. And that's because this population is a victim of capitalism run wild, a corrupt, greedy and cruel system. What makes us all even angrier is that the bourgeoisie is getting fatter on the backs of the masses here while we watch our children starve. And that's what we talked about as we shared the shopping, cooking and serving of the food: How the profit system serves a small class of parasites, which exploits us to eat well off our labor. Our class creates all value, but our labor is stolen by the exploiters. The bosses and their allies across the world use racism, sexism and nationalism to super-exploit some while exploiting all.

Stocking up class solidarity for a revolutionary feast

But our modest effort is beginning to make the work of the bourgeoisie harder. We are putting the lie to the saying "Chak koukouy klere pou je w." ("Everyone for themself.") The PLP always promotes and encourages class solidarity, not bourgeois humanitarianism and even less charity. It is sharing between brothers and sisters of the working class.

This community kitchen was organized under the leadership of a new young comrade who lives here. This comrade gives leadership to ideological struggle as well as practical work, as he and other young comrades organize local "ti lekòl yo" (freedom school-like study-action groups) in the areas where they were raised, to bring revolutionary communist ideas and practice to the rural working class.

Join us in building an international communist movement to fight hunger caused by greedy capitalism and individualism. As the International, our communist anthem, states, "The international working class shall be the human race."✪

The New School Strike

Workers and students in solidarity threatens bosses

New York, December 13—Workers' fightback and unity among part-time faculty (PTF), full-time faculty (FTF) and students has won major improvements in wages, job security, and health care for PTF at the New School in New York City. On strike since November 16 – the longest PTF strike in U.S. history - the PTF's union announced an agreement that met almost all of the strikers' demands. Final ratification is slated for December 17. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined the PTF picket lines, bringing revolutionary politics into the mix of this class struggle.(see CHALLENGE, 12/14/22).

The New School bosses were exposed during the strike as ruthless exploiters who have no concern for the welfare of students, workers, and faculty. But workers' determination and solidarity pushed them back! This strike and the bosses' response demonstrated again how all capitalist institutions, including universities, must be overthrown and workers' power established if we are to have an educational system that serves the global working class, the vast majority of people, rather than the capitalist class.



Students and workers picketing outside of the New School campus

The New School bosses were forced to meet all of the union's core demands, including across the board raises, guaranteed annual raises for all five years of the contract, and flat payments of $400 and $800 for out-of-classroom work. For example, a part-time professor teaching a 45-contact hour lecture who currently makes $5,753 will earn $6,475 in 2023, and $7,820 in 2027.They also increased healthcare eligibility and guaranteed that health insurance plans would remain comparable from year to year.

Why did the New School bosses finally cave? Many reasons! The full-time faculty (FTF) held a solidarity strike from the onset of the PTF strike. Parents filed a lawsuit against the university. Students picketed and then occupied the administration building to support their teachers. And the PTF maintained strong picket lines throughout the struggle.

United faculty sees through bosses' lies

During "negotiations", the administration lied and threatened teachers and students. They claimed that meeting all the compensation demands from the PTF would lead to a $60 million deficit and tuition would increase by 50 percent. None of these numbers were backed by any transparent budget data and were only issued to scare students and parents who supported the PTF. The administration also threatened to withhold pay and health insurance contributions for any FTF and staff who struck in solidarity, issuing a "work attestation form" for everyone to fill out to prove they are working (i.e., scabbing on the strike) in order to receive pay. This policy, intended to be divisive, backfired.

FTFs fiercely objected to the work attestation form, noting that it contradicted the original core value of the New School, which was founded in 1919 by professors from Columbia University who refused to sign a loyalty oath. The attacks on FTF demonstrated that they too were just wage laborers whose economic security could easily be endangered, like workers in general. Solidarity between FTF and PTF skyrocketed. Some conservative FTFs were quickly marginalized and more radical voices dominated the FTF solidarity action.

When New School administrators tried to use students to challenge the professional ethics of faculty on strike, the students responded by occupying the University in support of the strike and calling on all professors to honor the picket lines. The students' occupation is ongoing as we go to press. Despite the union's announcement of the end of the strike, students are using the momentum from the struggle to oust the President, disband the Board of the Trustees, and freeze tuition for the next few years.

This success sets a positive precedent for many future academic strikes. This militant solidarity points the way to a revolutionary future if communist ideas of revolution, building the PLP, and intensifying the class struggle gain traction among engaged students and faculty.✪

Reds vs. Evictions Part 5

MacDonald's path of many struggles lead him to be a communist

The following is part five of a seven-part series reprinted and lightly edited from the communist newspaper Daily Worker in September-October, 1932, written by famous communist Mike Gold. The series was titled, "Negro Reds of Chicago."

Workers here are referred to as Black instead of the original "Negro" to reflect our antiracist principles as well as the linguistic shifts that occurred over decades of antiracist class struggle.

Communists have a long history of fighting against racist attacks on our class. One such fight was against landlords and evictions. In the early 1930s, amid Jim Crow segregation, a Great Depression with record unemployment levels that sank the working class—particularly Black workers living in the urban industrial core—into deeper poverty and despair, the Communist Party in the U.S. (CPUSA) was fighting for revolution inside U.S. borders. This period was a golden age of class-conscious fightback when communist ideas were popular and gripped the imaginations of the working class. Under the leadership of the CPUSA, workers organized militant housing councils, tenant unions that led bold actions that weakened the power of profit gluttonous landlords.

Today our class is in a different period marked by increasing volatility. We are choked by record-high inflation, rent hikes, food price gouging compounded by stagnant wages, high unemployment, and an eviction crisis worsened by a still-raging global pandemic. Though the CPUSA is a shell of its former self, decaying into a toothless, reformist party, its history provides valuable lessons for us today.

This series highlights this antiracist revolutionary fightback and contains kernels of working-class wisdom.

In past issues "Reds vs. Evictions" covered the story of Claude Lightfoot, a communist activist and author who, like so many communists before and after him, was brutalized by the klan in blue for fighting against racism. In this issue's edition we look at how another Black worker was ultimately able to see through the bosses' nationalist and religious dead ends, realizing his true path was in joining the Communist Party, and being embedded in working class fightback.

No liberation in religion

Leonidas MacDonald was a Mohammedan only a few years ago. He joined that sect, which finds a fertile field for proselytes among the Chicago Black workers, after he had become disillusioned with the Garvey movement and the Christian religion. There are several Arabian and American gentlemen in Chicago who have made quite a racket out of this Mohammed. But MacDonald took it seriously; once he fasted 40 days.

"It appealed to me on race grounds," he said. "I had seen so much of the brutality and hypocrisy of white Christians. Mohammed was colored, and I thought maybe it was more fitting for us to follow him. Anyway, I can't tell what I expected, but one day I started to read the Koran. It was the same old bible bunk – Adam and Eve and the rest of it. I quit about a month after I had finished studying the Koran."

He was ever searching for a way out for his suffering Black race. Tall, lean, humorous, always neat but out at the elbows and knees, MacDonald is one of those born intellectuals who come out of the working class. Some betray it, sell out to the capitalists, others are loyal to their class and lead the fight for freedom.

Son of the working class

Born in Jackson, Tenn., in 1897, MacDonald's father was a railroad brakeman earning $38 a month, "swell money, big money", and there were eight children. The parents were ambitious to give all their brood a first-class education. But Leonidas went to school for only two years. Then the inevitable proletarian tragedy. The father was killed; the child was left with a large family.

He was six feet tall at the age of fifteen, and tried to join the army, but was rejected because he was Black.

He drifted north, working in all the southern states, then came to Chicago in 1916 and held a swell foreman's job. The war came and he volunteered. He served in the 39th Infantry, a Black regiment attached to the 10th French Army. He went through the battles of Soissons, Metz, the Argonne, and was wounded and invalided home.

He was mustered out in July, 1919, year of the race riots in Chicago. These made a deep impression on him: killed some of his orthodox faith in Christ, and roused his race consciousness.

Seeking answers

MacDonald had been working for years as a butcher in the Chicago stockyards when Marcus Garvey came to town. The man swept him off his feet; he was ready for this message, and soon became an active speaker and organizer at night, rising to the position of Colonel in Garvey's fantastic empire.

> *Whatever the crimes and mistakes of this misleader Garvey, I learned a lot about organization from him," says MacDonald, "I could see, too, that all this talk of returning to Africa was a false solution. Liberia was a slave-holding colony controlled by the United States government. The rest of Africa was owned by other white imperialists. We were as enslaved in Chicago as we could hope to be there; we would have to fight for our freedom in the place we lived.*

It was then that MacDonald joined the Mohammedans. When that failed to satisfy his clear, hungry mind, he felt lost, bewildered. In his bewilderment he took to the soapbox and every night, after his day's work, he talked to the south side crowds. He was thinking aloud, trying to find his way.

One night some heckler shouted at him, "You talk like one of those damn reds."

"Do I?" Mac answered in amazement, "Do I? If so, I am going to study the matter, and see whether I am red."

This taunt opened his eyes to the work of the Unemployed Councils. Now he first began to see the mass funerals, the demonstrations of the Reds. He began to discover Lenin and Marx. It all beat on him like a cloudburst – the new world, the new world was being born again in another proletarian mind.

Quoted Mac: "If the white man suffers, the Black man always is made to suffer twice as hard." That is proving true in this depression.

"But where did Oscar De Priest the Black landlord fit in? He wasn't suffering, he was causing Black workers to suffer. Class interests were stronger than race."

Home at Last

MacDonald flung himself into the Unemployed Council work – a fine speaker and able organizer. He spoke at the hunger march at the stockyards. Four cops surrounded him. He was arrested often, he studied and grew. In August 1931, he joined the Communist Party.

> *My doubts were stilled; now I knew where I belonged. I came to my home, where I shall live and die. Yes, comrade, I found the Party at last. But it was through much struggle, many struggles and illusions. This is the crooked path that life takes.w*

Interview with a railroad worker: on super exploitation

Recently, the U.S. Congress came to the aid of the railroad bosses, bankers and Wall St. and voted to impose a contract on 120,000 freight railroad workers in 12 different unions, who are subject to the federal Railway Labor Act (RLA).

President 'Jim Crow' Biden, "the most pro-union President in history," stepped in to make sure that workers didn't defy the bosses and union leaders with wildcat strikes and job actions. Congress, which can't seem to agree on anything except war budgets and billions to Ukraine, acted with remarkable speed, proving that despite all their splits and in-fighting, all the politicians can unite on stomping out any threat from the workers.

The capitalists run the government to serve their interests: profit. We need to organize for a communist revolution where the working class runs the government and all society.

Eight unions have voted to ratify the imposed contract, with many workers feeling like this was the best they were going to get knowing that their union leaders were not prepared to take on the government and the bosses. But the four largest unions, representing almost 60 percent of rail workers have, as of this writing, rejected the imposed contract. These union leaders are actually misleaders. They accept capitalism with all its racist and sexist profiteering and laws benefiting the bosses. They don't organize workers to fight back. But fight back we must with the goal of eventually seizing power for the working class - that's communism.

CHALLENGE spoke with Windy City, a Black railroad worker in Chicago with 15 years on the job.

CHALLENGE (C) : What are some of the main issues facing railroad workers?

Windy City (WC): Railroaders are mostly concerned about quality of life as it pertains to long hours and lack of employees. We are overworked because of the greed of the bosses. Maybe the #1 issue is "Precision Scheduled Railroading." It's like the "just-in-time" method of manufacturing brought to the railroads to further speed us up and get us back to work quicker, driving down costs by firing workers, selling equipment, outsourcing work and more. Instead of knowing you have multiple people in front of you, now you can get called back to work in 15 minutes to fill a train.

Thousands of jobs have been eliminated over the past few years and now the bosses want to run these trains with just one person; that's their goal. Having no sick days is perhaps the most well-known demand but scheduling and job cuts are there as well. This contract is going to continue to eliminate jobs. It does not address job cuts or make our jobs any safer.

C: What's the makeup of the workforce?

WC: I would have to guess the railroad is about 30 to 40 percent Black workers, mostly in the cities. Many workers are from rural areas, and many are pro-Trumpers. They understand that we work in an industry that is heavily regulated by the federal government. A lot of workers are approaching 20 years in the industry, and may soon be eligible for retirement or disability. We have a lot of health issues.

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LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



Workers rallying against racist, sexist capitalist healthcare system.

Imperialism is making us sick

On December 1, World Aids Day, I went to a rally at the White House to join with other health organizers demanding the Biden Administration extend the public health emergency on Covid-19 and take executive action to boost global vaccine manufacturing. These demands were combined with a call for increased funding for HIV/AIDS as the "two pandemics collide."

The fight for Covid-19 prevention and care is similar to the long, militant struggles in the U.S. and South Africa for global access to HIV medication. Covid-19 and HIV continue to be major health problems despite being downplayed by the Biden administration, which instead is funding war in Ukraine.

I shared fliers and CHALLENGE newspapers with 10 of the 25 folks present. I shared our work in the American Public Health Association (APHA) to get policy for global vaccine development and to build the struggle to embrace a revolutionary solution—communism. Two organizers from ACT UP from New York agreed that we should be fighting against imperialist war and thanked me for bringing this up. For an excellent Progressive Labor Party (PLP) presentation linking health and imperialist war go to: https://youtu.be/fzJ9ENoRjLs .

Health Gap reports that 690,000 die yearly from HIV and 38 million are living with HIV and 25 percent still do not have access to treatment. Thus, rally organizers demanded a $750 million increase for international AIDS work to PEPFAR in 2023 and 2024 to address HIV, Monkey Pox, and Long Covid. (PEPFAR is the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief that began in 2003). Also, consistent with PLP's work on global vaccination justice, the rally called for $100 million to fund the South African mRNA hub.

Speakers from ACT UP PHILLY, Health Gap and others gave dynamic antiracist speeches, denounced the failure of the U.S. to provide health care for all, and demanded that Biden extend the public health emergency to keep 15 million U.S. residents under Medicaid.

Hatred for the profit-gouging pharmaceutical industry was palpable. But there was no call to end the funding for imperialist wars.

Communists can join and give leadership to these health care struggles while raising communist ideas. I talked with several of the 25 protesters and urged them to call out imperialism as much as they attack the drug companies. Imperialism is hurting workers through continued illness and war. Time to stand together for health and communism!

In 'class' struggle: building working-class unity

I teach at a nearly all Black Caribbean high school. When a student used the n word in class, I shut down my lesson. "We don't do that here…next class, we will explore the power of words," I told my 9th graders.

With the support of comrades and our study group, I created a lesson that places the n word in its historical context: the violent system of slavery. As a comrade put it, "it's on the lips of lynchers," enslavers, and the Klan. That word is a weapon of the bosses to treat a section of our class as subhuman and divide us. Using it evokes and normalizes anti-Black violence. No one should participate in the degradation of our class siblings.

The lesson began with journaling about hurtful words said to us. "I'll go first," I said. "I was told I was too dark…a terrorist, to go back to your country."

After sharing our personal experiences, I presented my claim: "we can't separate words from their history. Hurtful language leads to hurtful actions. Using dehumanizing words spreads the message that some are less than."

I gave students three pieces of evidence to break down and discuss. At the end, I asked if anyone would reconsider using this word. Many said yes, while others still believed the word can be reclaimed.

One student wrote, "I can try to lessen it…because it can dehumanize some people."

Next time someone uses a slur, say, "That word is about accepting a part of our class as less than. We are constantly sent the message that we are worthless. I want you to be one of the sides of history that uplifts, not degrades, us."

Does this mean I won't ever hear slurs? No, but it gives me a basis to show students and teachers are on the same side.

Now, how does this connect to building communism? Winning students to a class-conscious outlook is non negotiable. In this lesson, they were introduced to the words, working class and ruling class (something we will return to in future lessons).

Capitalist education teaches us to view our co-workers and classmates as enemies. One student wrote, "I agree with the lesson 100 percent. It made me realize what white people said to downgrade our ancestors."

We had a conversation differentiating between enslavers and poor white people. Without showing how language, like people, belongs to a certain class, it's easy to fall into the trap of blaming those around us, instead of the system, for hateful language. It's the ruling class that teaches us we are worthless, and that's a system we ultimately have to smash. Of course, we don't fight with just words. More struggle ahead!

Exploitation is the bedrock of capitalism

A CHALLENGE article (11/16/22) called racism "the bedrock of capitalism." However, the bedrock of capitalism is exploitation. Racism, sexism, etc. divide our class to prevent resistance to our common oppression by exploitation. Racism enables exploitation, not the reverse.

Housing segregation leads to school segregation, discrimination in jobs and income, and different quality lives for Black and white workers.

Greater oppression is dealt to Black workers, in police brutality and killings, evictions, poverty, jobs, unemployment, housing, lower life expectancy, greater newborn and maternal mortality, incarceration, more deaths from Covid, etc.

So while white workers experience lesser oppression, on average, this is no "privilege." White workers suffer greater numbers, but lower proportions, of all forms of oppression. U.S. whites average lower life expectancies than Asian or Lation but higher than Native or African Americans.

Exploitation explains the oppression of our entire class, and the enabling divisions victimize both white and Black.

Liberal antiracism fosters the lie that whites are privileged, that all white workers oppress all Blacks workers The 2019 NYT "1619 Project" pushed this lie, enabling the rightwing to target "critical race theory." Both sides promote division, disabling a multiracial working-class movement against racism and exploitation, the true bedrock of capitalism.PLP has rightly focused on fighting racism, mainly because of its role in shoring up exploitation —the oppression of all workers. Fighting exploitation means in the workplace, not just neighborhoods, schools, and churches—wherever workers congregate.

Interview with a railroad worker: on super exploitation

Continued from page 5

A lot of older workers are holding on to get back pay and bonuses. Then they will be coming out.

C: How do the workers feel about the government imposing a contract on them? What has been the role of the union leadership?

WC: Most workers knew that this was probably going to happen. The union leaders have been transparent about how the government would use the Railway Labor Act to prevent a strike. We were never seriously prepared or mobilized to shut down the industry, let alone defy the U.S. government. In a certain sense, the union leadership used the government to impose a contract that they could not get



us to ratify on their own.

C: What have discussions with your coworkers been like?

WC: We have discussed how Biden could issue an executive order for paid sick days, but he has not. We know we are going to get a contract that will lead to further cutbacks and higher profits for the bosses. They are hoping a big raise will get us to swallow these worsening conditions, but many current workers will not be around long enough to see the next contract.

C: Do you think you can show this issue of CHALLENGE with this interview to some of your coworkers and introduce them to Progressive Labor Party?

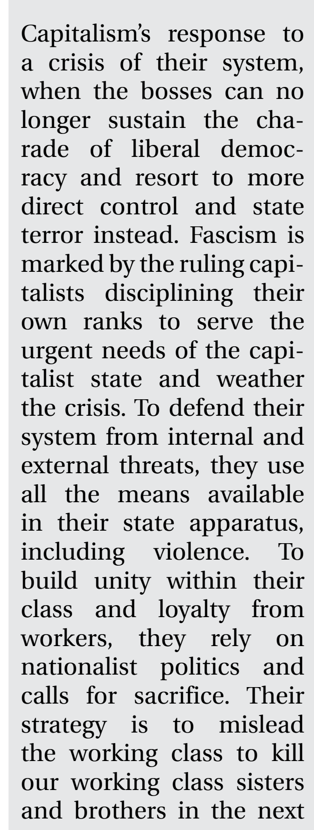
WC: Our workforce is so thin and so spread out, sometimes I go weeks without seeing the same people. So, it's hard to have real discussions and build that trust, but I'm always on the lookout. Sure, I'll take a few.✪



GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism



Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

2022 Review: glimmers of workers' fightback



Continued from page 8

MAYORS, COPS, OR POLITICIANS! The only way to defend against attacks on our class by liberal misleaders like Baraka is to build toward communist revolution.Rising inflation and an unsustainable cost of living had workers worldwide unable to meet their families' basic needs. July saw **Panama** face one of its biggest protests in decades, spurred by rising food and fuel prices (LA Times, 7/19/22). **Britain** remains in the midst of one of its biggest strikes in recent years, with over 200,000 workers demanding better pay and working conditions (CNN Business, 11/15/22).

In Greece, a 24-hour general strike called by private- and public-sector unions was set to shut down most services around the country (ABC News 11/8/22). And in **Belgium**, authorities were forced to reduce airport capacity by 70 percent to avoid disruption from a strike (Crisis 24, 12/10/22).

When workers of the world unite we can bring this racist capitalist system to a halt.

Shut this racist system down!

Liberal fascism looms ahead of WWIII, but working class solidarity prevails .

In 2022, both wings of the ruling class continued to splinter–particularly in the U.S., as the Big Fascists struggled to discipline themselves and the more openly racist Small Fascists as capitalism spiraled into deeper crisis.

One year after the assault on the Capitol by loyalists of Donald Trump, the vicious battle between the two factions of U.S. capitalism continues to grow hotter. In January, the Big Fascists took a clear step toward full-blown fascism by establishing a new federal unit to target "domestic terrorism." Just one month later, we witnessed the old liberal world order disintegrated even further and the Russian capitalist bosses invaded Ukraine.

In this period, when capitalism is descending to a new level of hell, it is imperative for our class and PLP to forge a new way forward by smashing the rotten profit system with communist revolution.

In November, over 100 protestors rallied in defiance of a possible U.S. imperialist invasion of **Haiti**. Hundreds of thousands in **Sri Lanka** joined a protest movement storming the Presidential palace and chasing the president out of the country.

In response to the floods in **Pakistan**, PLP organized medical camps with the help of friends and is trying to build a base among displaced workers.

In **Colombia,** thousands of workers, enraged by the breakdown of public services, tax hikes, a plan to privatize health care, and five-plus decades of civil war, mounted mass demonstrations. where workers and youth and PLP fought alongside our class siblings in the trenches, injecting the struggle with revolutionary politics every step of the way.

Changing the course of imperialist wars is a monumental task, but it is something our class has done before. We must attack head-on the nationalism and racism being spread among our class by the bosses.

Who's day? Our day!

No year in review would be complete without **MAY DAY - OUR DAY!**

It's a day when workers from across the globe march to commemorate our triumphs, propelled by a vision of a world without exploitation, without capitalist borders, and run by the working class.

We march for the universal demands of all workers: against imperialist war, against racism and sexism, for the unity of immigrant and citizen workers, against wage slavery, against fascist police terror, and for the communist solution to all these attacks facing the international working class.

PLP celebrated **May Day** internationally and then carried that same fighting spirit to our Party's annual Summer Project, which centered around two major events: a march in in **Brooklyn** to protest the 2012 murder of Shantel Davis by police detective Phil Atkins, and the imprisonment of Justin Rodwell and the legal attacks on his family in Newark. The project was a show of resistance against the bosses and their enforcers, an unapologetic expression of the Party's politics.

Only solution is communist revolution!

Our rallying cry is for international working-class consciousness and solidarity. Our marching orders are to turn the guns around, to transform inter-imperialist war into communist revolution.

Our fightbacks of the past year offer glimmers of hope that the international working class will one day be the human race. With this unwavering faith in our class, scores of workers, students, and soldiers fight for communist revolution, workers' dictatorship, and a world free of the profit system's horrors.

Workers of the world unite! Organize in the workplace, in mass organizations, with friends and family. Look to our class brothers and sisters who have shut down trains, planes, and profit streams.

Smash racist chains and organize for one solution, and one solution only:

A communist revolution! ✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Dominican Republic officials: gutter racists

Al Jazeera, 11/24/22–Authorities in the Dominican Republic have rounded up thousands of Haitian migrants — and anyone who looks like they could be from Haiti — and deported them to a country in the grips of deadly gang violence and instability, advocates say. The forced removals, which rights groups say have escalated this month, have drawn international criticism and calls for restraint amid reports that unaccompanied children, pregnant women and other vulnerable people are being deported.

Some deportees have never set foot in Haiti…Dominican police and armed forces are detaining Haitians in the streets as well as "all those who look like Haitians." More than 20,000 people had been deported in a nine-day period this month…including some Dominican citizens with Haitian ancestry.

An official source with knowledge of the matter…approximately 40,000 people will be sent from the Dominican Republic to Haiti in November. That is in addition to the 60,000 who were deported in the past months…UNICEF said an estimated 1,800 unaccompanied minors were expelled from the country this year alone, a number the Dominican Republic denies."These deportations have resulted in the separation of families. People with valid documents have been deported, people who were born here in the Dominican Republic have been deported, ...These aren't deportations. It's persecution based on race."

European imperialists revise plan to rob workers in Africa

Der Spiegel, 11/11–Starting next year, a consortium led by BP [British Petroleum] is to begin extracting natural gas here on the border between Senegal and Mauritania…Extraction is planned to continue for 30 years, with the profits being divided up between the energy giants BP and Kosmos, and between the governments of Senegal and Mauritania…Processes that normally take years must be completed within just a few months in order to meet European demand as rapidly as possible and to profit from the high global prices...German Chancellor Olaf Scholz …noted…It is sensible…to "intensely pursue" cooperation in gas exploitation. Berlin is currently under pressure to quickly find alternatives to Russian natural gas, and the West African country is more than happy to jump into the breach…The mood marks a significant shift from last year, when European governments were singing the praises of the potential in Africa for renewable energies and warning against the exploitation of oil and gas.

Elon Musk joins the ranks of military contractors

CNBC, 12/5/22–Elon Musk's SpaceX is expanding its Starlink satellite technology into military applications with a new business line called Starshield. Starshield is likely to further tap the company's biggest U.S. government customer – the Pentagon – which already represents a high-value buyer of SpaceX's launches and has shown significant interest in the capabilities of Starlink. Few details are available about the intended scope and capabilities of Starshield. On its website, SpaceX said the system will have "an initial focus" on three areas: Imagery, communications and "hosted payloads" – the third of which effectively offers government customers the company's satellite bus (the body of the spacecraft) as a flexible platform. The Pentagon has already made clear that it's willing to spend heavily to have companies build out next-generation satellite capabilities.

Academic study shows capitalist control of state policies

Cambridge University Press, 9/18/14–Who governs? Who really rules? To what extent is the broad body of U.S. citizens sovereign, semi-sovereign, or largely powerless? …it can loosely be divided into four families of theories: Majoritarian Electoral Democracy, Economic-Elite Domination, and two types of interest-group pluralism—Majoritarian Pluralism, in which the interests of all citizens are more or less equally represented, and Biased Pluralism, in which corporations, business associations, and professional groups predominate. Each of these perspectives makes different predictions about the independent influence upon U.S. policy making of four sets of actors: the Average Citizen or "median voter," Economic Elites, and Mass-based or Business-oriented Interest Groups or industries.

The central point that emerges from our research is that economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little or no independent influence.

ALL 2022

KEEP FIGHTING THROUGH THE DARK NIGHT



In 2022, the international working class faced what sometimes seemed like the darkest of nights.

January saw Covid-19 deaths soar above six million worldwide with no signs of slowing. In February, Russia invaded Ukraine in what may turn out to be the spark for World War III. The pink tide of liberalism continued to infect Latin America, with leaders opportunistically working both sides of the imperialist competition, cynically promoting all-class unity, nationalism, and identity politics while simultaneously escalating racist and sexist attacks. The Monkeypox epidemic, once again, magnified the gross inequalities of the racist, sexist capitalist for-profit healthcare system which is a disaster for our entire class, especially Black and women workers. Open racists made regional and national political gains in Italy, France, and the UK. Monstrous imperialist monarch Queen Elizabeth II died amid pomp and mass mourning, despite seventy years of crimes against tens of millions of workers. And murders at the hands of the KKKops plagued our class.

Just as gutter racists in all their disguises seek to exploit and murder us, so do the liberal fascists of finance capital, led by the likes of Jim Crow Joe Biden. We fight to remember that these wolves in sheep's clothing, with their false promises and manipulation of social issues like increased funding for racist cops, abortion, immigration and mass deportations, and student debt, present the biggest danger.

Yet, through this dark night of capitalist decay and low class unity, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and fellow workers continued to **FIGHT BACK.**

A new generation of communist leadership

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) kicked off the year with an **Alabama Winter Project**, in which an integrated group of workers and students supported the ongoing Warrior Met Miners' Strike. Hundreds of multiracial miners and the Women's Auxiliary were open to our communist politics and set the tone for a year of Party fightback.

Across the U.S., students, teachers, and workers demanded that the bosses' public schools take their health seriously. In **Chicago,** working-class youth took militant action as city bosses, Big Fascist Black Mayor Lori Lightfoot, representing the liberal, dominant wing of the ruling class, and the sellout union bosses did nothing to stop Covid-19 infections and deaths on campuses.

At **City University of New York (CUNY),** ongoing struggles exposed that capitalist education administrators remain the lapdogs of the liberal Big Fascist wing of the capitalist class.

And as countless workers lost loved ones, and killer kkkops like Jason Van Dyke were set free, PLP continued to remind comrades that capitalism is at the root of the violence against our class. It is the capitalist bosses who attack us with poverty and police terror, disproportionately targeting Black and Latin neighborhoods.

In **New Jersey,** our Party has been a thorn in the side of Newark's Big Fascist Mayor Ras Baraka by keeping the Rodwell-Spivey fight alive. Our fightback has gotten bogus felony charges against the brothers reduced to misdemeanors, and we'll continue to fight until they're completely dropped. PL'ers and friends declared there are NO GOOD

Continued on page 7

NEXT DEADLINE

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the **Friday night of December 30**. Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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